

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
Recreation & Community Services Department
100 Riverview Center
Suite 140
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

MINUTES
Recreation & Community Services Commission Meeting of September 11, 2014
Held at McCutcheon Park at 6:00 PM

Present: David Bauer, Ed Dypa, Phil Pessina, William Wasch, Gerry Winzer, Anthony Jaskot

Absent: Gordan Adams, Mary Bartolotta, Lucy Bettencourt, Tom Hutton, Rick Romano, Dhruv Kekare

Staff
& Students: Deb Stanley

Public: Giuseppe Iadarosa, Ronnie Brown, Frank Marchese, Harold Panciera, Tammy Lemay, Karen Warren

Call: Called to order by Phil Pessina at 6:00. Phil Pessina asked for a moment of silence to honor victims and heroes of 911.

Public
Hearing: Anissa Ladd from Middletown **Little League** spoke. They are asking for **\$10K** to help cover the cost of 40 scholarships, safety equipment, dugouts and cost of running three seasons each year. Giuseppe Iadarosa requested **\$10,000 for Middletown Lacrosse**. This is a growing program that started with 80 participants and now has about 400. Guiseppi Iaderosa (for Marco Gaylord) spoke about **Middletown Football and Cheer** programs where 40% of participants receive financial aid and equipment expenses need to be covered. They are asking for **\$15,000**. A suggestion was made to move the grant awards to July so that fall sports will know what their funding will be prior to the start of their programing. Ronnie Brown and Harold Panciera spoke on the **Prof Gallitto girls and boys basketball** programing asking for **\$5,500** and **\$3,000** respectively for equipment, jerseys and referees. Frank Marchese asked for **10K for youth soccer** to cover cost of fields, goals etc. This program serves between 800 and 900 kids. Karen Warren stated that Middletown Little League serves boys kindergarten through 12 years and girls kindergarten through age 18 in soft ball. Tammy Lemay asked for **\$7,500** on behalf of **Ahern Whalen Baseball**. Phil Pessina thanked program representatives for understanding limited funds needing to be shared and Mayor Drew thanked the commission for their efforts and made comments about his support for the Recreational & Community Services Committee and appreciation for the volunteer Coaches of the various youth sports programs. He also concurred with the committee's recognition of the Recreation Staff and Summer Program Student Workers. He also explained to program representatives how the budgeting process works. Gerry Winzer suggested that perhaps Public Works could provide dugouts so that grant monies were not spent on structures instead of kids. David Bauer commented that safety was a priority.

Minutes: approval of minutes did not get discussed.

Report: Deb Stanley informed the Commission that the camps served over 500 children daily. There were about 200 participants in swimming lessons and the swim team was also very busy. New key fobs have been implemented at Vet's pool as well as a "card swiper" to allow for on sight purchasing of fobs. The tennis program had about 50 participants. Crew had between 40 and 50 participants and bus trips were well attended. The Senior Center is handing out Farmers Market coupons, holding health seminars and produces a monthly newsletter which is printed at no cost to the city and mailed. Newsletters are available for viewing on line. The Recreation department brochures have been printed and are also available on line. The Recreation office staff and Senior Center staff will be merging into the office at the Eckersley Hall building when it opens around November 1st.

Correspondence: none

Old Business:

- Recreation and Community Services Commission Survey: Debbie Stanley provided packets with proposed survey questions to the commission via email and hard copy. The commission is looking for detailed feedback on current programming and suggestions for additional programming that might be added. David Bauer stated that the city would comprise a master list of all recreation properties and how they can be best used and cost effectively used.
- Sports Grants: The commission has a budgeted amount of \$40K. Program representatives are asking for approximately \$62.5K. There was some discussion about funding programs at the same amount as last year. **Anthony Jaskot motioned that commissioners should ask Finance and Government for the \$22.5K balance. Seconded by Ed Dypa.** David Bauer abstained. All others agreed. Anthony Jaskot and Phil Pessina will seek funds. **David Bauer motioned, seconded by Ed Dypa that the commission should have all information and requests available prior to the spring budget process for the coming season.** The motion was passed unanimously.
- Summer Camp Safety was not discussed.

New business:

- Survey review with public comment: this was not discussed by the public
- Staff recognition: Phil Pessina recognized all student workers and seasonal staff that make programs run with certificates signed by Mayor Drew.

Miscellaneous:

Motion: Motion to adjourn 7:03 by David Bauer, seconded by Ed Dypa.

Respectfully Submitted by Heidi Geores
cc: Mayor Daniel Drew